

- Scharlieb, MARY, M.D., M.S.** *What it Means to Marry, or Young Women and Marriage.* Cassell and Co.; 1914; pp. 140; price 2s. 6d. net.
- Spiller, G.** *The Meaning of Marriage.* Watts and Co.; 1914; pp. 118; price 1s.
- Schuster, E. J., D.Sc.** *The Wife in Ancient and Modern Times.* Sidgwick and Jackson; 1914; pp. 151; price 1s. net.
- Fernald.** *The Married Woman.* A play in three parts. Sidgwick and Jackson; 1914; pp. 110; price 3s. 6d. net.

THE above four books all deal with the position of the wife in relation to her husband and the community. Dr. Scharlieb and Dr. E. J. Schuster both give a cursory historical account of her progress from that of a slave to that of a companion to man. The latter is very interesting in the examples given of wedded life amongst Greeks and Romans. They both show the social dangers attending so-called "free-love." Dr. Scharlieb urges that much more careful preparation should be given to the young for marriage and parenthood.

In "The Meaning of Marriage" G. Spiller also deals but slightly with physiology, but rather with the social and ethical aspect of marriage, and he sets forth high ideals and gives good advice which one would be glad to put into the hands of young couples.

"The Married Woman" introduces three couples, all of whom are unhappily mated. The problem discussed is what course of action should be pursued if a husband or wife discovers that the other is entirely lacking in some certain factor which he or she considers essential for the well-being of any child to be born of them. The author seems to suggest that such unions should be dissolved. Surely such a course would open the door to many dangers. The hysterical and hyper-sensitive would be very liable to misjudgment and the loosening of the marriage tie is attacking the problem at the wrong end. By education and free discussion men and women should ascertain whether their ideals, characters and the spirit dominating their lives are in sympathy before they unite their lives. Mr. Fernald's heroine shows that she has no right conception of true love when she exclaims to the man who loves her and is not her husband, "If I love you, there will be no room for justice in my heart." She has no knowledge of the love which opens the flood-gates of love to all around. From the characters as portrayed in the play one feels inclined to doubt if they would find true happiness if they tried re-mating many times.

G. M. C.

- Cady, B. C. and V. M.** *The Way Life Begins.* An introduction to Sex Education, with Foreword by Dr. W. F. Snow. Amer. Soc. Hyg. Assoc.; pl. ix., fig. 10; price \$1.25; pp. 78.

THIS really excellent book has been recently brought out to meet the demand from many quarters, for a simple yet scientifically accurate treatise on the reproduction of plant, animal and human life. It is intended as a handbook for teachers and parents, to be used with other books. The subjects chosen for description are: The lily, moth, frog, chicken, rabbit and child, to each of which a chapter is devoted, most attractively illustrated either in colour or monochrome. The sketch of the rabbit showing its unborn offspring *in situ* is both clever and novel, and the set of diagrams of the human body more enlightening than any we have seen.

The subject matter is dealt with in a direct and concise manner, but incidental facts are occasionally somewhat curtly touched upon, possibly on purpose to stimulate further study and research. The style is clear and incisive and the book eminently fulfils its purpose. We venture to think that it would be difficult to express one salient argument in favour of eugenic teaching, better than the authors have done in the following sentence:—"The teacher or parent may feel that success has been achieved when a child or adolescent looks upon the facts of reproduc-